

DOCKET: FIS9-2001-0180US1

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR: N. Brandon et al.)
SERIAL NO.: 09/881,820)
FILING DATE: June 15, 2001)
DATE:)
FOR: Method for Designing)
a Knowledge Portal)

EXAMINER: Hirl, J.P.
ART UNIT: 2121
DATE:

OFFICIAL

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131 OF NANCY W. BRANDON

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, Nancy W. Brandon, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a co-inventor of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified application, entitled "Method for Designing a Knowledge Portal," assigned to International Business Machines Corporation ("IBM").
2. This is a declaration under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.131 for the purpose of swearing back of a reference which was cited in the subject application. This declaration establishes facts showing conception of this invention in this country prior to the April 26, 2001 filing date of Shetty U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0084011 A1 cited against this application.

JUL 23, 2004 17:05 Brandon

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3. The claimed invention in the above-identified application was conceived by me and my named co-inventors in the United States prior to April 26, 2001. This is evidenced by the appended copy of a portion of an invention disclosure form created by Michael A. Timanni on behalf of all of the co-inventors describing the invention disclosed in the subject patent application (the "Disclosure").

4. The Disclosure was created, and is dated, prior to April 26, 2001, the filing date of the Shetty patent publication. Actual dates and the material not pertinent to conception of the invention have been redacted in view of their confidential nature.

5. The invention claimed in the subject application is directed to a method for designing a knowledge portal for retrieving, organizing and delivering knowledge to a user belonging to an organization. The following chart compares the steps of the claimed method with the teachings in the Disclosure:

CLAIM 1

A method for designing a knowledge portal for retrieving, organizing and delivering knowledge to a user belonging to an organization, the method comprising:

DISCLOSURE

"[A] 'knowledge portal' is a web-based tool which provides information delivery capability individual knowledge workers who need access to a broad spectrum of knowledge. It retrieves and indexes data or content from multiple knowledge sources and delivers that content to the user organized in a way that is highly relevant and intuitive." Disclosure, page 2.

"The diagram below describes how our method guides the design process by exploiting the natural clustering of an organization's knowledge workers into communities while also maintaining the alignment among the organization's business strategies, its communities, its processes, and the content and organization of the portal." Disclosure, pages 2-3.

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identifying a community of users belonging to the organization characterized by a common interest with respect to the knowledge;

"The specific communities* ... to be supported by the portal are identified, based on the organization's business and knowledge strategies and priorities." Disclosure, page 3.

* Community, as used here, means a group of users (employees or others) who share: A common base of knowledge, tools, and processes[;] A common way of conceptualizing or organizing that knowledge[;] A set of peers with whom they typically network or collaborate." Disclosure, page 3.

identifying business processes executed by the users in said community in accordance with strategies of the organization;

"The specific ... business practices to be supported by the portal are identified, based on the organization's business and knowledge strategies and priorities." Disclosure, page 3.

analyzing the business processes to identify specific activities performed in executing said processes and patterns for performing the respective activities; and

"The identified business process (or processes) is decomposed into subprocesses and/or specific activities performed in order to execute the process." Disclosure, page 3.

"Usage scenarios are then developed to understand how the portal might be used to support each specific activity." Disclosure, page 3.

"The collection of usage scenarios is examined for recurring patterns." Disclosure, page 3.

constructing the knowledge portal in accordance with said patterns.

"Understanding the form of the user's specific requests helps identify the most-intuitive way to organize the knowledge and tools within the portal." Disclosure, page 3.

6. On information and belief, the Disclosure was submitted to the attorneys for IBM, prior to April 26, 2001.

